(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As on 1.1.2002, 57 "finds" of natural gas associated with oil and 31 "finds" of non associated natural gas had been established by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in their areas of operations in the West Coast. In addition, Government have awarded 25 exploration blocks in West Coast Offshore to National Oil Companies (NOCs) and various private/joint venture companies. Out of the above number, 7 blocks were awarded prior to New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and 18 blocks were awarded under the first and second rounds of NELP.

Oil and natural gas have been discovered in 4 prospects in one of the exploration block, CB-OS-2, operated by a private company. One prospect of another exploration block, CB-OS-2, is also presently under development.

West Coast Refinery Project

604. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of West Coast Project and its location; and

(b) the total project coast of West Coast Refinery Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS^SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) West Coast Refinery Project of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) was proposed as joint venture between HPCL and Oman Oil Company (OOC) for setting up a 6 million metric tonnes per annum grassroot refinery at an estimated cost of Rs. 4407.11 crore at December, 1994 prices at Deoghar (Maharashtra). However, HPCL dropped the proposal subsequently in view of withdrawal of participation by OOC from the project, and due to addition of new refining capacity in the western region of the country.